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1931

THE NATIONAL INDIAN ASSOCIATION

TO AID IN CIVILIZATION, TEACH INDUSTRY, AND GIVE RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION TO THE INDIANS OF OUR COUNTRY

ORIGINATED, 1879 FULLY ORGANIZED, 1881
INCORPORATED, 1887

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

THE activities of The National Indian Association among our American Indians include

RELIGIOUS WORK

Direct undenominational teaching of religious truths in tribes where, almost without exception, no Christian instruction is given by any other organization.

The Association has done this pioneer missionary work in more than fifty tribes, or separated parts of tribes.

EDUCATIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN WORK

Helping to right political wrongs; gathering of Indian children into schools; stimulating and preparing capable Indians for wise leadership among their people; loans of money to Indians to enable them to build homes or to carry on business.

The Association has done a large and influential educational work, and through its Home Building and Loan Department has enabled Indians to build homes which have become civilizing centers of family life. It has also made loans to Indians for the purchase of implements of labor or for stock needed to begin some useful and paying industry. By such methods the As-

sociation seeks to put the Indian in a position to earn his own living and to become self-supporting and self-reliant. It has maintained library, temperance, hospital, and other departments; trained Indian young women as nurses, and assisted Indian young men and women to obtain training as physicians and teachers, some of whom have long been working to help their own people.

INDUSTRIAL WORK

Various industries have been successfully introduced among the tribes, such as bee-culture, dairy produce, cattle raising, poultry raising, vegetable growing, and agriculture. The Association also encourages the Indian arts of basketry and weaving,—finding markets in many cases for the articles made.

THE POLICY OF THE ASSOCIATION is to give its missions when well established, together with the property gathered, to the permanent care of denominational boards asking for them. In all more than fifty buildings have been erected and the missions thus transferred. In these mission transfers all the property gathered *is given, not sold,* to the society taking the mission.

It is significant that wherever Christian missionaries have gone to reside among the Indians and have taken to them the gospel message, they have won their allegiance and have found opportunities for service. From the time when, in 1884, our Association began its mission work among the Pawnees, the Poncas and the Otoes in the then Indian Territory down to the present time, this fact stands out conspicuously—the Indian is responsive to Christian teaching. The fact that there are 50,000 Indians in our land to-day practically pagan does not refute this statement. The fact does prove, however, that the Christians of America have been slow to discharge their duty to the original inhabitants of their country, and it also proves that the evangelization of the Indians is not a dead but a very live issue today. There is a danger of overlooking this issue owing to many pressing questions constantly arising in Indian affairs It is important that the property rights of the Indian should be safeguarded, his health preserved, adequate educational facilities provided for him and opportunity to work given him, but the question of paramount importance today in Indian life is that of

Christian training—the development of character.

The Association will begin missions among some of the tribes still destitute of religious instruction as soon as needed funds are received. We ask you to help us in this work of carrying to these neglected Indians the good news of God's love and Christ's redemption,—a work which must surely appeal to every American patriot and Christian.

The Secretary will be glad to furnish literature and answer inquiries regarding the Association's work. Cheques may be made payable to him or to Anna Bennett, Treasurer.

JOHN W. CLARK
Corresponding and Executive Secretary
Room 931, 156 Fifth Avenue
New York

Annual Membership	.....	$ 1.00
Life "	.....	10.00
Honorary "	.....	50.00

Patrons are made such by the payment of $25.00 within the year.

THE INDIAN'S FRIEND, now in its twenty-seventh year, is published by the Association monthly (except June and August). Price 50 cents a year.

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